2/17/68

Dear Trent,

I returned from California Friday night. Yesterday morning my wife fell in the course of handing buckets of water to me to fight a grass fire that had started. She sprained her ankle badly. X-rays and medical examination show the ligements are all badly torn. Indications are it is worse than a break. Of course, I took her to the hospital as soon as the fire was out. Her leg is in a cast. She is not able to walk on it. Tomorrow afternoon I take herm tothe doctor again. Perhaps I'll know more then.

However, I am writing you immediately in the hope that someone by whom I can mail this comes to visit. Icannot leave to do it. If no one does, I'll mail this on the way to the doctor, to give you the earliest possible notice.

There is no likelihood at all that I can be in New York 2/26. Until I get the probabilities from the doctor, assuming that this soon he can offer an opinion, I think it best that we assume Ialso will not be able to leave by 3/4. If it turns out that I can, I'll let you know immediately.

By this time I presume you have begun to make some arrangements, hence my haste. Possibly you can get someone else to takemy place for thisone.

There is no one I can leave withmy wife, and I think it will not be possible toleave her alone. Particularly is this true because we are in the middle of a drought. Living in a wooded area, the hazard is greater. We had a close call on the fire.

There issone alternative I can suggest. If you cannot get anyone else to replace me, I can do this by phone. I believe you said you were going to have someone else on the program with me. I have done this for hours by radio and TV, and I think there may be added interest of a kind if my part and the answering of questions were by phone. The actual cost will undoubtedly be less than transportation.

If I get any medical opinion that is contrary to this, I'll let you know immediately. Except when I have my wife to the doctor, I'll be home, for there is the accumulation of three weeks to face and all that she used to dofor me and the daily burden of newlettere and shipments.

Sorry.

Sincerely,